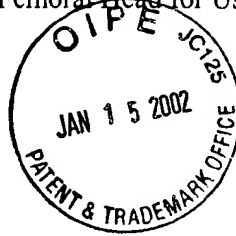


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: Pope et al.
Title: Diamond-Surfaced Femoral Head for Use in a Prosthetic Joint
Filed: January 30, 2000
Serial No.: 09/494,240
Docket: 6056 P
Examiner: Pellegrino
GAU: 3738




Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Certificate of Mailing

Honorable Assistant Commissioner:

I hereby certify that the attached Response to Office Action is being submitted via first class mail with the United States Postal Service in an envelope with sufficient postage addressed to "Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231" on November 2, 2001.


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

1-24-02
DB
#11

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Response to Office Action

Honorable Assistant Commissioner:

This paper is intended to be fully responsive to the office action mailed on July 12, 2001.

Remarks

Drawings

Applicant has attached proposed replacement drawings for the Examiner's consideration. No new matter has been added to the drawings.

Applicant responds to the prior art rejections as follows:

Specification

Applicant will remain vigilant to any possible errors in the specification.

§ 102 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected pending claims as anticipated by Buechel (U.S. Patent No. 5,702,448). Applicant responds as follows.

1. Buechel (U.S. Patent No. 5,702,448) is NOT an enabling reference. Buechel has only two (2) uses of the word 'diamond' in his entire disclosure:

A prosthetic device as in claim 12, wherein the biologically inert material is selected from the group consisting of titanium nitride, zirconium, titanium boride, titanium carbide, aluminum oxide and diamond.